

Commonwealth of Kentucky

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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LESLIE A. COMBS
94th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

July 15, 2011

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioners:

As Chair of the Kentucky Legislature's Tourism Development & Energy Committee, which reviews all of our state's telecommunications bills, I am very eager to see the FCC permit approval of the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile USA (Docket No. 11-65). Once these companies are allowed to combine spectrum and capabilities, they have committed to spending billions of dollars to build infrastructure to support the deployment of their wireless 4G LTE network to reach an additional 55 million Americans than currently planned.

The country simply cannot afford to pass up this opportunity for increased high-speed wireless broadband access on such a large scale.

I say this not only as a policymaker, but as someone who has been with Pikeville College for 23 years—prior to the start of the Internet Era—as a Special Assistant to the President, Vice-President for Business Affairs, and Treasurer of the College. Every year, it has become increasingly important to offer our students the most state-of-the-art technology, but our ability to keep up with this demand is in many ways out of our hands, as mobile 4G LTE access depends on telecoms expanding access to more small towns like ours.

Likewise, due to my involvement with the Pike County Chamber of Commerce, I've heard many concerns voiced among our area's business leaders. Small business owners need the same access their competitors across the country and the world have in order to stay relevant in this global marketplace. The FCC is not just deciding the future of these two telecoms, but also of countless small businesses that lose ground every day they do not have access to mobile broadband.

In my community, I've seen what can happen when local providers dedicate themselves to improving service and this falls in that same category of helping our citizens and our areas progress.

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My opinion of this merger is not only based on my analysis of it as a member of the legislature and other public service positions, but more importantly, it is based on my experience as a working mother. I need mobile broadband at home, work and in between in order to stay on top of my family's busy, modern life. Please consider my opinion when reviewing this merger and give it your support.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leslie A. Combs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "L".

Rep. Leslie Combs, 94th District

CC: Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell